

Sterilization tops Bush Third World agenda

by Our Special Correspondent

A spokesman for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) told a reporter for the Spanish-language edition of *EIR*, *Resumen Ejecutivo*, that sterilization is the Bush administration's "first choice" method of population reduction in the Third World. The USAID is an agency of the U.S. State Department, carrying out the official foreign policy of the Bush administration.

In contrast to cutbacks in most other U.S. government departments and programs, the budget is rapidly expanding for the sterilization of citizens of developing countries. The U.S. Congress is proposing a \$50 million increase, to approximately \$300 million, for the USAID depopulation account in the 1992 fiscal year, even though USAID officials had not asked the Congress for any increase from the current \$250 million annual budget level.

USAID officer Joanne Grossi described the depopulation policy during a July 16 interview at the USAID Office of Population in Rosslyn, Virginia. Grossi said that Mexico is first among targeted nations, on a list which was drawn up earlier in July at a USAID strategy session. India and Brazil are second and third priorities, respectively.

Personnel from the Association for Voluntary Surgical Contraception (formerly titled the Sterilization League of America), who are paid by the U.S. State Department, have set up bases in Mexico to perform operations on millions of Mexican men and women. Workers from Johns Hopkins University, under similar contracts, are training Mexicans in the art of sterilizing their fellow citizens. The acknowledged strategy in this program is to sterilize those young adults who have not already completed their families.

Sources familiar with the depopulation work emphasize that the politically sensitive sterilization activity is closely identified with President George Bush. Both the President and his White House counsel, C. Boyden Gray, have had long, personal associations with the sterilization work and with the agencies carrying it out.

Pope stands up against sterilization

Asked if Ibero-American governments or military establishments had mounted any resistance to the Bush administration's population agenda, the spokesman said that the gov-

ernments have cooperated and thus the militaries pose no significant threat to the program anywhere in Central or South America.

But pointing to Mexico, Grossi explained bluntly what the Bush administration sees as its one great obstacle: "The Pope! This Pope is interfering directly. . . . Mexico is a heavily Catholic country, so this has a serious effect." Speaking out in his own name and working through his bishops, the USAID representative charged, Pope John Paul II is trying to block U.S. efforts to institute mass birth control in Mexico. "He is even going directly to the pharmacists, telling them not to sell condoms or oral contraceptives."

But the Bush administration is pleased with the performance of Mexico's Harvard-trained President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Grossi said that despite publicized moves toward reconciliation between the Mexican government and the Roman Catholic Church, Mexican President Carlos "Salinas is completely on our side in this against the Pope."

Grossi stressed that U.S. effort for Third World population reduction centers on the social role of women. "We are much less concerned with the men. The uneducated woman . . . not working . . . staying home with her children . . . this has to change."

Political and educational agents of the U.S. State Department are setting up women's centers, creating new women's groups, and attempting generally to alter the "oppressive" traditional family structure. To this end, an entire Women in Development bureau has been established within the Office of Population.

USAID target list

The USAID spokesman gave the following as the new priority list of targeted nations:

1) Mexico; 2) India; 3) Brazil; 4) Nigeria; 5) Bangladesh; 6) Turkey; 7) Pakistan; 8) Indonesia; 9) Kenya; and 10) Egypt.

Grossi was asked if the depopulation campaign encountered significant problems from religious opposition in the Muslim countries. "No. Nothing serious. We work with the most popular female stars . . . soap opera . . . screen stars," she said. In Turkey, the huge U.S. sterilization effort is being aided by public appearances of "the most popular movie star."

The Bush administration depopulation strategy is rapidly shifting to keep up with political change, new opportunities, and completed efforts. "We are pulling out of Thailand. . . . It's a great success story," Grossi said. Following large-scale sterilization of the Thai people, Thailand is now considered a "developed country," according to Grossi.

The U.S. State Department has just recently placed Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania on its target list. The first entry into Eastern Europe has been gained in Romania, and \$2 million is being spent on a depopulation "needs assessment" study for that impoverished country.